Clearance of Approach to Patna Airport

1371. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government sorted the matter with the Forest Department and other relevant Department to clear the approach to Patna Airport;

(b) whether there are other such airports that are dangerous in approach or take-off in the country; and

(c) the action taken on ground by the Ministry of Civil Aviation to give utmost importance to safety in terms of airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has approached Government of Bihar to prune trees in the approach path at Patna Airport.

(b) No operational airport, belonging to the Airports Authority of India, is dangerous in approach or takeoff path.

(c) Regular inspections of the airports are carried out to ensure the maintenance of safety standards, and deficiencies, if any, are removed.

Flights from Vienna to Hyderabad

1372. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government for introducing direct international flights from Vienna to Hyderabad in view of Austrian Airlines proposal to operate between Vienna and Hyderabad;

(b) if so, whether Government would agree to the request

(c) if so, by when permission would be granted to Austrian Airlines; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) In Feb. 2001, Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh, had requested for grant of permission to Austrian Airlines to operate from Hyderabad. However the Austrains, who were offered Hyderabad as a point of call during the bilateral negotiations held

in June, 2001, did not evince much interest in our offer but instead requested for Mumbai as a point of call for their designated airlines. This was not acceptable to the Indian side.

Removal of Aviation Restriction by Pakistan

1373. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has lifted aviation restriction for India as a reciprocal gesture of opening up its airspace for over flights; and

(b) if not, the action proposed to be taken to close its airspace for Pakistani aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Government have already lifted, with effect from June 10, 2002, all restrictions placed since January 1 of this year on Pakistani Aircraft and Pakistani Airlines to overfly Indian territory subject to normal procedures for approval, as appropriate, being followed as before. Pakistan has, however, not yet responded to India's gesture. As a result, Pakistani aeroplanes have not been able to overfly Indian territory.

Committee on Management of Airports

1374. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a committee on the Management of Airport in the country;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the committee;

(c) what is Government's reaction to such recommendations; and

(d) whether all the recommendations made by the committee have been fully implemented and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) In December, 1999 a High Level Inquiry Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri R.C. Jain was constituted to look into the escalator accident, which happended at Indira Gandhi International Airport. This Committee was also asked to look into the aspects relating to Management of Airports. The Committee